In the Claims:

The following is a list of claims currently pending in this application and their current status. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings in this application. **Pending claims start at 36 on page 5.**

1.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) A method of simulating open to buy inventory values, including:

setting inventory budgets for groups of items;

simulating future inventory for the items, utilizing current inventory levels for the items, projected future demand for the items and simulated future deliveries for the items;

for a plurality of predetermined time periods, aggregating the simulated future inventory for the groups of items and calculating open to buy values from the inventory budgets and the aggregated simulated future inventory; and

reporting the open to buy values.

2.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 1, further where in the simulated future deliveries include notional deliveries for the items, based on the projected future demand for the items unconstrained by the inventory budgets.

3.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the projected future demand for the items are weekly projected demand.

4.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the weekly simulated sales are adjusted for causal events happening during a weekly projection period.

5.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the weekly projected demand are adjusted for a promotion during parts of one or more weekly projection periods.

6.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the projected future demand for the items are daily or more frequent projected demand.

7.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the daily or more frequent projected demand for the items are corrected for stockouts at respective selling locations associated with the items.

8.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the simulated future inventory the items is corrected for stockouts at respective selling locations associated with the items.

9.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the daily or more frequent projected demand for the items are corrected for in dates and out dates associated with the items.

10.   (Withdrawn - original) The method of claim 9, wherein the in dates and out dates associated with the items are set for respective selling locations associated with the items.

11.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the daily or more frequent projected demand for the items are corrected for last purchase order receipt dates associated with the items.

12.   (Withdrawn - original) The method of claim 11, wherein the last purchase order receipt dates associated with the items are set for respective stocking locations associated with the items.

13.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the daily or more frequent projected demand for the items are based on predetermined sales shares and location profiles for respective selling locations associated with the items.

14.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the daily or more frequents projected demand for the items are corrected for optimal markdowns of fashion or seasonal goods.

15.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the optimal markdowns are received from an optimal markdown routine and utilized in calculating the projected demand and the simulated future inventory.

16.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the open to buy values are simulated for ends of the plurality of predetermined time periods.

17.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the open to buy values are simulated for beginnings of the plurality of predetermined time periods.

18.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the open to buy values are simulated based on peak inventory during the plurality of predetermined time periods.

19.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the open to buy values are simulated based on average inventory during the plurality of predetermined time periods.

20.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the predetermined time periods are calendar months.

21.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the predetermined time periods are calendar months.

22.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the predetermined time periods are calendar months.

23.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the predetermined time periods are calendar months.

24.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the predetermined time periods are fiscal months.

25.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the predetermined time periods are fiscal months.

26.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the predetermined time periods are fiscal months.

27.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the predetermined time periods are fiscal months.

28.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the predetermined time periods are biweekly periods.

29.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the predetermined time periods are biweekly periods.

30.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the predetermined time periods are biweekly periods.

31.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the predetermined time periods are biweekly periods.

32.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the simulated future inventory are corrected for stockouts at respective selling locations associated with the items.

33.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the projected future demand are consistent with presentation quantities for the items at respective selling locations associated with the items.

34.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the projected future demand are determined with reference to a causal calendar of events.

35.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the simulated future inventory takes into account planned promotions.

36.   (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of evaluating the impact of inventory budgets on availability of items to meet projected future demand, including:

setting inventory budgets for groups of items;

<u>prorating the inventory budgets among the items to create prorated inventory budgets that can be compared to simulated inventory costs;</u>

projecting future demand for the items;

scheduling simulated orders and deliveries for the items in quantities sufficient to meet the projected future demand for the items, unconstrained by the inventory budgets;

simulating future inventory for the items, utilizing current inventory, the projected future demand, firm future deliveries and the simulated orders and deliveries;

~~prorating the inventory budgets among the items, for a plurality of predetermined time periods;~~ and

reporting ~~open-to-buy values that compare~~ <u>a comparison of</u> the prorated inventory budgets ~~for the items or aggregations of the items~~ to inventory costs that would result from executing the simulated orders and deliveries in quantities sufficient to meet the projected future demand.

37.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, further including:

calculating reduced simulated orders and deliveries for the items consistent with the prorated inventory budgets; and

calculating lost sales for the items based on the reduced simulated orders and deliveries.

38.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the simulated orders and deliveries are constrained by lead time for ordering and obtaining delivery of the items.

39.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the simulated orders and deliveries are constrained by lead time for ordering and obtaining delivery of the items.

40.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the projected future demand for the items are projected on a daily or more frequent basis.

41.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein future sales for the items are simulated on a daily or more frequent basis.

42.   (Cancelled)

43.   (Previously presented riginal) The method of claim 36, wherein the simulated orders and deliveries are based in part on optimal stocking levels.

44.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the simulated orders and deliveries are based in part on optimal stocking levels.

45.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, further including reporting the simulated future inventory levels that exceed the optimal stocking levels.

46.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, further including reporting the simulated future inventory levels that exceed the optimal stocking levels.

47.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, further including reporting values of purchase orders that have been placed but not fulfilled for the items having the simulated future inventory levels that exceed the optimal stocking levels.

48.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, further including reporting values of purchase orders that have been placed but not fulfilled for the items having the simulated future inventory levels that exceed the optimal stocking levels.

49.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, further including reporting values exceeding minimum order quantities of purchase orders that have

been placed but not fulfilled for the items having the simulated future inventory levels that exceed the optimal stocking levels.

50.　(Previously presented)　The method of claim 45, further including reporting values exceeding minimum order quantities of purchase orders that have been placed but not fulfilled for the items having the simulated future inventory levels that exceed the optimal stocking levels.

51.　(Previously presented)　The method of claim 36, wherein the projected future demand levels are based in part on desired in stock service levels.

52.　(Cancelled)

53.　(Previously presented)　The method of claim 36, wherein future sales levels are corrected for stockouts at respective selling locations associated with the items.

54.　(Original)　The method of claim 36, wherein the notional delivery levels are consistent with presentation quantities for the items at respective selling locations associated with the items.

55.　(Previously presented)　The method of claim 43, wherein the simulated orders and deliveries are consistent with presentation quantities for the items at respective selling locations associated with the items.

56.　(Previously presented)　The method of claim 36, wherein the simulated orders and deliveries are determined with reference to a causal calendar of events.

57.　(Previously presented)　The method of claim 43, wherein the simulated orders and deliveries are determined with reference to a causal calendar of events.

58.　(Previously presented)　The method of claim 36, wherein the simulated orders and deliveries take into account planned promotions.

59.　(Previously presented)　The method of claim 43, wherein the simulated orders and deliveries take into account planned promotions.

60.　(Previously presented)　The method of claim 36, wherein the simulated orders and deliveries are consistent with minimum order quantities for the items.

61.　(Previously presented)　The method of claim 43, wherein the simulated orders and deliveries are consistent with minimum order quantities for the items.

62.　(Previously presented)　The method of claim 36, wherein the prorating is based on the simulated future sales.

63.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the simulated future sales take into account any simulated lost sales due to stockouts for the item.

64.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) A method of analyzing simulated open to buy values, including:

setting open to buy inventory budgets for groups of items;

simulating daily or more frequent sales for the items;

simulating future inventory for the items, utilizing current inventory of the items, the daily or more frequent simulated sales for the items and simulated deliveries for the items from orders already placed;

for dates within the lead time required to order and receive delivery of the items, calculating lost sales due to inadequacies in the simulated future inventory;

rolling up the from the items to the groups of items calculated lost sales and simulated future inventory; and

reporting the lost sales and open to buy values for the groups of items.

65.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the simulated daily or more frequent sales for the items are determined with reference to a causal calendar of events.

66.   (Withdrawn – previously presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the simulated future inventory for the items are determined with reference to a causal calendar of events.

67.   (Withdrawn - previously presented) A method of simulating open to buy inventory corrected for component inventory, including:

setting inventory budgets;

simulating future inventory for items, utilizing current inventory levels, projected future demand for the items and simulated future deliveries for the items; and

for a plurality of predetermined time periods, aggregating the future inventory for the items and reporting open to buy values that compare the future inventory to the inventory budgets;

wherein the future inventory is segregated between salable inventory and component inventory used to make for salable inventory.

68.   (Withdrawn - original) The method of claim 67, further including reporting unfilled need for component inventory.

69.   (Withdrawn - previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein simulated future sales are consistent with any unfilled need for component inventory.

70.   (Withdrawn - previously presented) The method of claim 67, wherein the simulated future inventory is compared to an optimal model stock inventory unconstrained by the inventory budgets, and any excess inventory is reported as an overstock.